

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ServeMontana Seeks Public Input on State Service Plan

MONTANA – ServeMontana, the Governor's Office of Community Service, seeks honest, anonymous input from Montanans of all ages and backgrounds via the short, online Community Needs Assessment.

"Every year, over 500 AmeriCorps members and VISTAs serve across Montana – from our smallest frontier towns to our largest city," says Sarah R. Sadowski, Executive Director of ServeMontana and two term AmeriCorps VISTA Alumna. "We need input from Montanans to direct our phenomenal service force toward the most acute challenges in our state."

Responses to the assessment help craft the <u>State Service Plan</u>, which will guide the path of <u>AmeriCorps national service</u> in the Big Sky State for the next three years. The Community Needs Assessment covers the following focus areas: Economic Opportunity, American Indian Affairs, Education, Healthy Futures, Veterans & Military Families, Montanans Age 55+, and Land & Natural Resources. Respondents can choose up to three pressing needs within each focus area, identifying specific concerns in our communities such as suicide prevention, tribal language preservation, and affordable health care.

The anonymous, accessible Community Needs Assessment is online at <u>surveymonkey.com/r/servemtcna</u>. Individuals, community organizations, nonprofits, and government agencies are encouraged to complete the assessment. If you have questions or would like a paper copy of the assessment, please contact <u>serve@mt.gov</u> or (406) 444-9077.

ServeMontana thanks you for sharing your perspective and asking your neighbors to take the Community Needs Assessment.

ServeMontana, the Governor's Office of Community Service, expands and promotes national service and volunteerism in Montana. If you feel called to national service or want more information, visit us at serve.mt.gov.